



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,395	12/22/2003	Harvey E. Svetlik	20937.001	7185
42922	7590	10/20/2004	EXAMINER	
WHITAKER, CHALK, SWINDLE & SAWYER, LLP			DUNWOODY, AARON M	
3500 CITY CENTER TOWER II			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
301 COMMERCE STREET				
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-4186			3679	

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/743,395	SVETLIK, HARVEY E. <i>ST</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Aaron M Dunwoody	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-7, drawn to a pipe coupling, classified in class 285, subclass 337.
- II. Claims 8-12, drawn to a method of coupling adjacent ends of a pair of pips sections, classified in class 29, subclass 890.014.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group II and Group I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process which does not install a sealing gasket within the bell.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Charles D Gunter, Jr. on 10/7/2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-7. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this

Art Unit: 3679

Office action. Claims 8-12 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Priority

No priority claimed.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 12/22/2003 is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: D1, D2, D3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to because the sealing gasket has an improper crosshatch. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required

in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the restraint system" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 3910610, Turner et al.

In regard to claims 1 and 2, Turner et al disclose a pipe coupling comprising:
an adapter (24a) formed of a length of pipe, the adapter having a fusing end and a coupling end;

wherein the coupling end of the adapter has a nominal thickness pipe wall with an integral flange formed at one end thereof,

wherein the integral flange defines a bell end opening for the adapter, the bell end opening having a first region of reduced internal diameter for receiving a sealing gasket (26a) therein, the bell end opening also having a second region of further reduced internal diameter which forms a circumferential shoulder region therein for receiving a male spigot end of a mating pipe (22);

the adapter integral flange having a front face, a rear face and an outer peripheral surface, and wherein a rigid reinforcing ring (28) circumscribes the outer peripheral surface in order to strengthen the connection when the spigot end of a mating male pipe is inserted within the bell end opening of the adapter to form the pipe coupling.

Turner et al does not disclose an adapter formed of a length of pipe having a polyolefin, polyethylene pipe wall, or a mating pipe which is formed of the different material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate an adapter with a polyolefin, polyethylene pipe wall, and fabricate a mating pipe of a different material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

In regards to claim 3, Turner et al disclose a pipe joint, comprising:

a first section of pipe having a polyolefin pipe wall and a second section of pipe of a different material; an adapter formed of a length of pipe having a polyolefin pipe wall, the adapter having a fusing end which is fused to the first section of pipe, the adapter also having a coupling end;

wherein the coupling end of the adapter is joined to the fusing end by a nominal thickness pipe wall with an integral flange being formed on the coupling end thereof,

wherein the integral flange defines a bell end opening for the adapter, the bell end opening having a first region of reduced internal diameter for receiving a sealing gasket therein, the bell end opening also having a second region of further reduced internal diameter which forms a circumferential shoulder region therein for receiving a male spigot end of a mating pipe which is formed of the different material; the adapter integral flange having a front face, a rear face and an outer peripheral surface, and wherein a rigid reinforcing ring circumscribes the outer peripheral surface

in order to strengthen the connection when the spigot end of a mating male pipe is inserted within the bell end opening of the adapter to form the pipe coupling;

a sealing gasket installed within the second region of reduced internal diameter of the integral flange; and

a male spigot pipe end of the second section of pipe being inserted within the bell end opening and engaging the circumferential shoulder region thereof to thereby form a sealed pipe joint.

In regards to claim 4, Turner et al disclose the length of pipe having the polyolefin wall being formed of polyethylene.

In regards to claim 5, Turner et al disclose the length of pipe of a different material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of PVC, ductile iron, cast iron and steel.

In regards to claim 6, Turner et al disclose a mechanical restraint system (20, 98) which engages an external surface of the second section of pipe and the front face and rear face of the integral flange, respectively, in order to prevent the second section of pipe from pulling away from the bell end opening of the integral flange.

In regards to claim 7, as best understood, Turner et al disclose the restraint system including a pair of restraint rings which are located on opposite sides of the integral flange of the pipe joint.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the inventive concept of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 703-306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 703-306-5771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

.amd